

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for optical modulation, comprising:  
a phase modulator configured to drive light with an NRZI-coded drive signal for  
phase modulation; and  
an intensity modulator configured to modulate the intensity of a phase-modulated  
NRZI-coded optical signal received from said phase modulator, ~~with~~ and having an operating  
point ~~set~~ adjusted such that the output of said intensity-modulated optical signal is eliminated  
~~in case when~~ a phase of said NRZI-coded optical signal is ~~continuously same value~~  
substantially fixed.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A method of optical modulation, comprising:  
driving, at a phase modulator, light with an NRZI-coded drive signal for phase  
modulation;  
modulating, at an intensity modulator, the intensity of a phase-modulated NRZI-coded  
optical signal received from said phase modulator; and  
~~eliminating the adjusting an operating point of said intensity modulator such that an~~  
output ~~from an optical signal of said~~ intensity-modulated at said intensity modulator in case  
optical signal is eliminated when a phase of said NRZI-coded optical signal is ~~continuously~~  
~~same value~~ substantially fixed.